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NOTES ON THE MAMMALS AND BIRDS OF THE HUDSONIAN ZONE. (Cont.)

Veratrum, Rubus, etc., were honeycombed with their burrows, and the total population of these animals throughout the zone would be astounding if it could be approximately estimated.

In all, twenty-seven species of mammals were recorded from this high region, twenty-three of which were collected.

Of birds, the more notable records were:- Pine Grosbeaks breeding in some numbers at about 6000 feet. The only skin collected there, remaining in my collection, has been identified by Mr. Oberholser as Pinicola enucleator montana, but the bird seems very small, even for a juvenile, by Ridgway's measurements; it certainly is nothing like the dark colored, hook-billed forms of the flamula group. The Slate-colored Sparrow was a scarce breeder. Only about 75 miles away on a clear day the islands of the Gulf of Georgia, which are the breeding grounds of the darkest member of the group, Passerella iliaca fuliginosa, could be seen. In this case also, the only specimen I have has been identified as P. i. schistacea, but it is so worn and ragged that its subspecific identity must be uncertain; it might be altivagans which has been recorded from the same range some fifty miles to the north, though on the eastern slope (near Lilloet).

A difficulty also arises in the determination of the Hermit Thrush of the region. This is the pale colored form common to the Cascades, Gold range, and Selkirks in southern British Columbia. Specimens from all these points have been identified by Mr. Oberholser as Hylocichla guttata sequoiensis; it is however a very much smaller bird than that subspecies from California though the coloration is similar. Dr. Grinnell and Mr. Swarth call all these birds from British Columbia, except the northwest coastal strip, H. g. guttata.

The Horned Larks breeding on the highest mountains were Ctocoris alpestris arctica, and I can find no difference either in measurements or coloration between these and the migrants of late April and early May which presumably are on their way to the Arctic.

Lastly, the first specimens of the Alaska Three-toed Woodpecker, Picoides americanus fasciatus taken in British Columbia were collected in this region.

All of the above mentioned mammals and birds were common to the whole of this mountain region on both sides of the international boundary and all of these records will stand for the State of Washington.

THE KITTLITZ MURRELET IN SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA.

By Ernest P. Walker.

I had kept especially close watch for the Kittlitz Murrelet (Brachyramphus southeastern Alaska since talking with Dr. Harry C. Oberholser /(brevirostris) in March, 1912, but not one did I see until August 3, 1921. On this date and on August 4 and 5, I found these murrelets in the tide rips near the middle of Glacier bay, where numbers were seen and thirteen collected.

THE KITTLITZ MURRELET IN SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA. (Cont.)

All those observed were in the main bay; none were found in the smaller bays and inlets, which the Marbled Murrelets frequented in numbers. No real flocks were observed although sometimes as many as eight or ten would fly away together at our approach. Usually, though, there were only two or three in close proximity; particularly twos, as though pairs were yet remaining together. Young taken were practically as large as the adults and fully as quick on the wing.

The mottled gray backs of the birds blended so well with the salt water that they were rather difficult to see, especially in the choppy waters about the icebergs, for which they showed a marked preference.

When a murrelet was landed with a dipnet a small fish (apparently a young salmon) about four inches long, was dipped up with the bird. The bird's beak marks could be seen just back of the head of the fish. The stomachs as well as the skins were saved for the Biological Survey collections.

Quoting Dixon's notes, Grinnell says (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., Vol. 5, No. 2, p. 186): "These murrelets get off the water far more rapidly than do the Marbled Murrelets. They seem to come up flying. Their flight is much swifter than the other murrelets and they are much wilder." As before mentioned, their coloration so harmonizes with the water that they are difficult to see and often they were in the air before we saw them. When rising from the choppy water in a hurry, they did spring into the air flying, but when in more quiet water or not in such haste they bump along the water a few times as does the Marbled Murrelet. Indeed, my observations of the Marbled were that it can and usually does spring directly into the air from the rough water when in haste to get away. The writer agrees with Dixon that the Kittlitz Murrelets are wilder than the Marbled Murrelets.

When leaving Glacier bay on August 5 an occasional Kittlitz Murrelet was noted about the entrance to Dundas bay, ten miles west, but none were definitely seen further away, not in Icy straits, at the east of Glacier bay.

In talking with an Indian living on Glacier bay and questioning him as to where water birds were nesting, he said birds "about the size of a young duck before it could fly" nested "back of the timber on the hills," but "not very far from the (salt) water." He further stated that one could "not find many," which would indicate that the birds of which he spoke were not in colonies. He said they finished nesting before the Fourth of July. As to whether we were thinking of the same bird I can not say and unfortunately I was unable to show him a murrelet. The writer's experience in obtaining information from natives in this way has been very unsatisfactory and while little faith is placed in such data, this is here mentioned for any light that it may throw on the subjects of murrelets nesting.

Juneau, Alaska,
February 11, 1922.